



CALPEEK

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ELECTION ANALYSIS

Editor's note: Here is CALPEEK's ELECTION ANALYSIS (Part I), starting with a national overview and running down to some key local races in Calif. We'll do WINNERS & LOSERS next week when the election picture has cleared up. As CALPEEK hit deadline, there were still some 400,000 AV ballots which had not been counted in Calif...

● NATIONAL OVERVIEW - GOP Pres. George Bush is one lucky guy. Had it not been for the narrow win of Pete Wilson(R) in Calif., and some upsets in other gubernatorial contests in the Midwest, Nov. 6th would have been written up as a total disaster for Bush and the Republican Party. Still the GOP defeats in the key sunbelt States of Florida and Texas were hard to take because it looked as though both States would remain in the Republican column. The loss of GOP businessman Clayton Williams Jr. in Texas to Ann Richards was a case of defeat being pulled from the jaws of victory...

...In the congressional and senate races, Democrats gained 8 U.S. House seats and 1 U.S. Senate seat (GOP Sen. Rudy Boschwitz of MN lost). What this means is that incumbents are still tough to beat, even with solid challengers who are well financed. In Calif., 3 incumbent congressmen were upset - 2 Demos and 1 Republican. The gains for the Demos will make it harder on House conservatives, who almost lost Minority Whip Newt Gingrich(R-Georgia) to an underfunded Demo challenger...

...For those who like to look at presidential politics, the Nov. 6th election wasn't good news for George Bush, but some CALPEEK sources think he may have enough time to regain some popularity and reshape his wishy-washy image before 1992. On the Demo side, one CALPEEK source noted that NY Gov. Mario

Cuomo's 52% win didn't do much to enhance his image as a frontrunner; and U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley(D-NJ) is lucky to still be in the senate after a very narrow win...

WILSON LONE GOP WINNER IN A SEA OF DEMOS.

Political insiders were right on the mark in predicting that Pete Wilson would be elected as Calif.'s new governor. With 400,000 absentee ballots yet to be counted, Wilson held a narrow lead over former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein(D). But many, including Wilson's own staff, didn't think the election would be this close - 48% to 46%...

...As for Wilson's GOP team of other state-wide candidates, all lost with the possible exception GOP AG candidate Dan Lungren, who trailed Demo S.F. DA Arlo Smith in a very tight race. Some think Lungren will pull it out, while others feel Smith will hang on. We'll know next week...

...So with Wilson already basking in the glow of national media attention, several things come to mind immediately:

- What will Pete do to mend fences with GOP State Legislators who were on the opposite side in the battle over TERM LIMITS?
- Who will he appoint to fill out his term in the U.S. Senate?
- What is Pete going to do about the projected budget shortfall in 1991?
- Will Gov.-elect Wilson be able to work with the Democratic-controlled legislature, particularly on fiscal policy and on the very touchy subject of REAPPORTIONMENT?

...Best guess is that Gov.-elect Wilson

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will make some peace offerings to the Demos in Sacto because he knows that to govern this State, he needs the cooperation of all parties. The day after the election, Wilson even extended the "olive branch" to DiFi. In terms of making up with the GOP lawmakers, one way to do that might be to appoint one of them (as opposed to a House member) to his seat in the U.S. Senate. Two names pop out almost immediately: GOP Senate Leader Ken Maddy(R-Fresno) and GOP State Sen. Becky Morgan(R-Los Altos). As for the BUDGET SHORTFALL, we'll have to wait and see what develops...

...In terms of why Wilson squeaked out a narrow win, CALPEEK thinks he ran a near flawless campaign but may have eased off too soon. If there was a big mistake, it was that Wilson didn't return to Washington D.C. after the summer (absenteeism), but was saved because DiFi's campaign took way too long before attacking him on this issue with a good TV spot (it began airing after he went back east). Lack of a 2nd debate also hurt DiFi because she needed a boost to give her some BIG MO going into the last few weeks...

...If you're looking for other reasons why Wilson beat DiFi, how about the lousy job that Calif. Demo Party Chair Jerry Brown did on voter registration and GOTV. Brown may have raised a lot of money early on in his chairmanship, but he spent much of it on OFFICE OVERHEAD - not registration and GOTV. Had it not been for the Demo Legislative Leadership and consultant Larry Tramutola, plus some independent efforts by such groups as CARAL, the Republicans might have swept up the floor with the Democrats. Many CALPEEK sources share this view...

...In terms of issues, some CALPEEK sources think Feinstein's support of BIG GREEN may have cost her too much, especially in the Central Valley. One GOP consultant told CALPEEK that if #128 wasn't on the ballot, DiFi could have won...

...As for the GOP slate of candidates who ran with Wilson, the biggest problem they faced as a group was MONEY. Once Prop. 73 was overturned, it was thought this might help, but it really didn't. The key problem was that Wilson's fundraising machine got most if not all the money and the other Republican candidates got nothing but the

leftovers. This is not to say that State Sen. Marian Bergeson and L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores were broke, but both faced well entrenched incumbents in LG Leo McCarthy and SOS March Fong Eu and needed multi-million dollar war chests to win...

...As for GOP Controller candidate Matthew Fong, he was just out gunned by Controller Gray Davis. Some CALPEEK sources felt that incumbent State Tres. Tom Hayes(R) might have a good shot at winning a full term on his own, but Tres.-elect Kathleen Brown, like Wilson, ran a near flawless campaign and blew Hayes away with her fundraising abilities. For Monday morning QBs, the Hayes appointment by Lame Duck Duke was another case of a political screw-up. Had George Deukmejian appointed someone like former State Sen. Bill Campbell or State Sen. Ken Maddy, many CALPEEK sources think either would have held the post without difficulty. Maybe, maybe not...

TAX REVOLT STILL ALIVE AS VOTERS JUST SAY NO TO ALL BUT SIX OF CALIF. BALLOT PROPS.

Two things are very clear after the general election of Nov. 6th: the taxpayer REVOLT is still alive & well; and Calif. voters are sick and tired of facing complex ballot measures they don't understand...

...Example: of the 6 measures that passed, #139 and #140 were two of the more controversial. But both were easy to understand. #139 allows prisoners to be put to work and #140 is the term limit proposal. On the other hand, BIG GREEN, Prop. #128, was a long and complex environmental measure that few voters understood and thus went down to defeat, getting only 36.6%...

...In terms of the TAX REVOLT, voters rejected Props. 133 (sales tax hike to fight crime) and Props. 126 and 134 - little and big alcohol tax. Voters also rejected #129 which might have cost the State \$400 million in new taxes. In addition, only two of 8 bond measures were OKed by voters...

...What about Prop. 136, the Taxpayers' Right to Vote initiative? It was defeated by a vote of 52.6% to 47.4%. If voters were in an anti-tax mood, why reject #136? Several CALPEEK sources think #136 was too complex and covered too much turf. Had it been restricted to just a simple public

vote anytime a local government increased taxes, it might have passed...

...At the local level, tax proposals met with mixed results. In Orange and L.A. Counties, voters OKed Props. M & C to hike the sales tax for transportation projects. On the other hand, Measure G in Santa Clara County to hike the utility tax, with the revenue going to build a new baseball park for the Giants, went down to defeat. The 1/2 cent sales tax hikes for transportation in Ventura Co. also lost, as did a 1/2 cent sale tax plan for new jails in L.A. Co...

3 INCUMBENT U.S. HOUSE MEMBERS DEFEATED.

While insiders were not necessarily shocked at the loss of U.S. Reps. Chip Pashayan(R-Fresno) or Jim Bates(D-San Diego), the same can't be said of Doug Bosco(D-Santa Rosa), who was defeated for reelection by GOP businessman Frank Riggs of Windsor...

...Why did Bosco lose? He was hit repeatedly for taking S&L money and eventually the message sunk in. The final vote was Riggs 43.1%, Bosco 42.2% and the Peace & Freedom candidate, Darlene Comingle, 14.8%. Sources tell CALPEEK that many liberals in the area who would have ordinarily voted for Bosco, just wanted to teach him a lesson, not thinking he would lose. The polling showed him leading Riggs 2-to-1. Bosco may also have been hurt by the Timber Wars, between loggers and environmentalists...

...As for Pashayan in the 17th C.D., again it was the S&L stuff that hurt. Calvin Dooley hammered on this one topic and it worked. The final vote was 55% to 45%. As for Jim Bates, Mr. Top Gun, Randall "Duke" Cunningham(R) will be the new congressman in the 44th C.D. The old charge of sexual harassment of his female staff is what did Bates in. Again, third party candidates took votes away from both candidates...

...The Inland Empire will send both of its incumbents back to congress. U.S. Rep. Al McCandless(R-Riverside) survived a tough challenge from Demo actor Ralph Waite; and that old liberal, George Brown, also will be heading back to D.C. after defeating San Bernardino Co. Sup. Bob Hammock by a margin of 53.2% to 46.8%...

...Two other new faces in the Calif. congressional delegation: Assemblywoman Maxine

Waters(D-L.A.) and Sen. John Doolittle(R-Rockland). Doolittle had to struggle just a little to overcome a tough challenge from Demo Pat Malberg...

DEMOS PICK UP LEGISLATIVE SEATS IN CALIF.

Before Nov. 6th, the lineup in the Calif. State Senate was 25-14-1 (the independent being Sen. Quentin Kopp of S.F.). After Nov. 6th, the lineup is 26-13-1. The GOP hit on veteran Demo State Sen. Ruben Ayala of San Berdu didn't work and Ayala beat his Republican challenger, Assemblyman Chuck Bader, by a 52% to 48% margin. But the big surprise for the Demo leadership was Mike Thompson, who knocked off State Sen. Jim Nielsen, who used to be the Minority Leader in the upper house. Like the House races, third party candidates played a key role. Thompson's margin was 48% to 46.4% for Nielsen...

...In the State Assembly, Speaker Willie Brown is all smiles, while GOP Leader Ross Johnson must be wondering what you have to do to win. Brown picked up 3 new Demo members, while only losing veteran Norm Waters of Placerville. The new lineup is 48-32. Two big surprises, both in San Diego. GOP incumbent Sunny Mojonier was knocked off by Del Mar school board member Didi Alpert (again, third party candidates hurt the incumbent); while former San Diego councilman Mike Gotch defeated 6-month incumbent GOP Assemblyman Jeff Marston, in a race that many Demos had kissed off months ago. With some AV ballots still uncounted, it's still possible Marston may hold on. The other MAJOR defeat for the Republicans was in Orange Co., where freshman Curt Pringle was defeated by former Asst. U.S. Atty. Tom Umberg(D). Although the count wasn't complete, Umberg held a 1,500 vote lead as CALPEEK went to press...

...The big question in Sacto is what impact these results will have on the GOP Assembly Leadership team? Will Ross be able to hold on, or will there be a new leader? Some CALPEEK sources suspect there will be a big fight in the near future. FYI: Next week CALPEEK will analyze a few of these legislative races...

SOME OTHER ELECTION RESULTS WORTH NOTING.

Editor's note: Here are some results of local elections, as well as low profile races...

• OAKLAND MAYOR - Demo Assemblyman Elihu Harris is the mayor-elect of Oakland, having defeated Councilman Wilson Riles Jr....

• SAN JOSE MAYOR - This contest between Councilwoman Susan Hammer and former school Supt. Frank Fiscalini is still up in the air. Hammer was slightly ahead, 50.2% to 49.8%, with many AV ballots uncounted...

• INSURANCE COMMISSIONER - Demo John Garamendi is the State's 1st elected insurance commissioner, beating GOP rival Wes Bannister by a 58% to 42% margin...

• BOARD OF EQUALIZATION - Yes folks -- the voters in L.A.'s 4th district reelected convicted BOE member Paul Carpenter(D) by a margin of 48.4% to 44.0%. Because he was convicted in the FBI sting case, he can't hold office. Therefore, the governor will appoint someone to fill out Carpenter's term. In Dist. 1, despite having ethical problems, BOE member Bill Bennett(D) won reelection. Also reelected was BOE member Ernie Dronenburg(R-San Diego) and newcomer BOE-elect Brad Sherman(D-L.A.)...

• SAN FRANCISCO BD. OF SUPES - The new chair of the S.F. County Board of Supes will be veteran Doris Ward, who finished ahead of another incumbent, Bill Maher. Also elected were Carole Migden, Roberta Achtenberg and Kevin Shelley...

• ORANGE COUNTY BD. OF SUPES - Incumbent Harriet Wieder won reelection...

• L.A. COUNTY ASSESSOR - An upset of sorts. Incumbent John Lynch was ousted by one of his deputies, Kenneth Hahn - no relation to the popular supervisor...

POST-ELECTION REVIEWS SET UP & DOWN CALIF.

Editor's note: There are a number of POST-ELECTION discussions set for next week. Here are those that CALPEEK is aware of:

• Pollster Mervin Field will give a post-election analysis to members of the Bay Area Public Affairs Council(BAPAC), 11:30

a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Nov. 13, St. Francis Hotel, S.F. For info & RSVPs (415) 271-7228...

• Media Politics - The Role of TV in the 1990 Elections. Nov. 15, sponsored by Friends of Coro, RSVP Coro Foundation (213) 623-1234. Otto Bos from the Wilson team and Bill Carrick from DiFi's campaign are listed as speakers, along with consultants Sid Galanty(Big Green), Leo McElroy(YES on 134), Bob Nelson(NO on 134), pollster Arnie Steinberg and consultant Allan Hoffenblum. Call Coro for time and location...

• City Democratic Club of San Francisco holds its post-election wrap up at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 15, Marine's Memorial Club, 609 Sutter (Regimental Room). Pundits Marcelo Rodriguez, Bruce Pettit and David Binder are set to speak. Info at (415)337-5649...

SEN. TORRES SPEAKS TO L.A. CURRENT AFFAIRS.

State Sen. Art Torres(D-L.A.) will discuss "Public Safety & the Environment: How Are We Doing?" when he addresses the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Nov. 29, Beverly Plaza Hotel, L.A. For info, contact Emma Schafer at (213)445-8862...

SPECIAL 5th S.D. RUNOFF SET FOR JAN. 8th.

The runoff special election to replace former Demo State Sen. John Garamendi in the 5th S.D. will be held Jan. 8 between Demo Assemblyman Patrick Johnston(D-Stockton) and San Joaquin Co. GOP Chair Phil Wallace. In the Nov. 6th primary, Johnston defeated Patti Garamendi(D), wife of John. Between the two Demos, they spent about \$1.5 million...

FIREARMS INITIATIVE GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT.

Here we go again. SOS March Fong Eu has given Kevin Patterson of Placerville the OK to begin collecting signatures for an initiative statute to forbid the legislature from passing any restrictive GUN laws without a vote of the people. Patterson has until Mar. 18, 1991, to collect 372,178 valid names to qualify for the June 1992 ballot...

